

Standish-Sterling Community Schools  
STERLING ELEMENTARY  
Parent Involvement Policy  
2014-15

Statement: We, at Sterling Elementary School, believe that parents are our children's original teachers and equal partners in the Home-School-Community triad that constitutes a child's learning environment.

Parents' Responsibilities: We believe and strongly support our parents in providing their children with a home environment that provides for their child's health, safety, and emotional well-being. An environment that prepares them for school teaches them family life skills and values and builds a positive support for school learning and behavior. School's Responsibilities: We believe that school must provide parents with current information on their child's academic progress through parent-teacher conferences, report cards, notes home, phone calls, and personal contacts. Schools should keep parents informed of schedules and special events through newsletters, memos and notes. Every parent should receive a school handbook. Communications should be on a regular and timely basis. We also believe that schools must support families by helping to provide connections to other community agencies. This is fostered through the program's partnerships and collaborative agreements with various education, health, and welfare support agencies. Parent Involvement in School: Parent involvement in school activities is encouraged through an open visitation policy, which allows parents to visit and observe their child's classroom or special programs. Parents are encouraged to serve as volunteers to assist teachers in the classrooms, to help as tutors, supervise special events, chaperone fieldtrips and be guest presenters. We believe that parents send

a powerful message about education to their children when they take time to participate in school functions. It is hoped that early involvement will make parents comfortable and encourage them to take an active role throughout the children's school years.

Parent Involvement in Decision Making: We believe that parents must be equal partners in their children's education.

To provide for this, each school has established an advisory committee consisting of parents, teachers, paraprofessionals, and the building administrator. The purpose of these advisory committees will be to assist in the ongoing planning and program development of each school's compensatory education program. In addition, the membership of these committees will convene annually as a planning committee and will provide information to all parents. Individual building programs will seek regular parent input through surveys, open meetings, and special events, such as parent and student workshops and celebrations. School-Parent Compact: The Sterling Elementary School-Parent Compact describes the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction to all students in a supportive and effective learning environment. This compact is a written agreement of shared responsibility that—

- Defines the goals and expectations of schools and parents as partners in the effort to improve student achievement.
- Outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will work together and build a partnership to help students achieve high academic standards.
- Translate the policies and goals of parents and schools into "action statements" (i.e.. What will administrators, teachers, and parents do to make policies and goals a reality?)
- Serves as a catalyst for collaboration and a guide for ongoing, better communications, interactions and exchanges between school staff and parents/guardians

Why a Compact?

A compact provides the opportunity for developing strong school-family partnerships that will connect families and schools, as well as the broader community, and promote shared responsibility for the high performance of students. These partnerships can improve school programs and school climate

- Increase the skills and leadership abilities of parents
- Ensure the provision of family services and support
- Sustain long-term improvement in student academic achievement
- Help teachers, parents, and schools to be more effective

However, the main reason for a compact and school-family partnership is to help students succeed in meeting the challenging academic standards they are expected to master.